

Dr. Ward rightly gives the credit for the most practical handling of the milk problem at present to the so-called Washington, or three class plan—viz: certified, inspected and pasteurized milk. The latter, including all milk not produced under sanitary conditions, pasteurized under direct oversight of the health authorities.

If it were true that milk merchants would pasteurize by the slow or interrupted process advocated by Dr. Rosenau and would handle the milk properly iced until its early delivery this plan would undoubtedly be worthy of further discussion, but this they almost unanimously refuse to do.

By heating to an indefinite temperature in a continuous flow machine for an insignificant period of time they succeed in destroying most of the adult acid forming germs leaving many pathogenic forms and their toxins unharmed, as well as those bacteria which act upon the proteid rather than the carbohydrate elements. This process is very effective in destroying the enzymes and protective antibodies as well as the more numerous, but harmless, sugar splitting forms so that the organisms that are left may grow unhindered as soon as the milk is brought to a favorable temperature. However, the so-called pasteurized milk will bear rough usage longer without suffering any evident change and the commercial interests are satisfied.

Caldwell and Sherman in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* have recently (Oct., 1908) shown that rapid high temperature pasteurization is inefficient in destroying the peptonizing or proteid splitting group of bacteria and that these in the absence of the acid forming variety grow more luxuriantly after pasteurization than before, more ammonia being present in pasteurized samples than in sour, unheated milk.

In view of these facts, I do not see how sanitarians can do otherwise than to condemn utterly the present practice of making a dirty fluid more presentable by partial pasteurization, notwithstanding that ever ready and watchful bugbear of "Milk Famine." Famine of what, in Heaven's name! Those who have seen the conditions existing in some of the smaller outlying dairies—and large ones, too for that matter,—will agree with me that a famine of their product is one that can be viewed without terror and borne with a large measure of fortitude.

The subject of Medical Milk Commissions is treated satisfactorily although not so fully as the subject warrants considering that practically all the milk now produced under sanitary conditions in the United States is that which is marketed under the supervision of these bodies. However, those medical societies which are contemplating the establishment of milk commissions, and let us hope they are many, will now find abundant information along constructive lines in the transactions of the American Association of Milk Commissions.

It is not to be expected that the two chapters on milk analysis and milk adulteration contributed by Dr. M. Jaffa, Professor in the University of California, will take the place of the volumes written upon these special subjects. They contain, however, much of value not found in the larger works.

The record of the author's personal experience, well told, forms the basis of advice in the conduct of tests and the interpretation of results. They are a distinct addition to the literature on these subjects.

The press work is very attractive and the index is comprehensive and accurate. A possible omission is a list of authors quoted which would be a help in looking up the literature.

LEWIS SAYRE MACE.

Roentgen Rays and Electro-Therapeutics with Chapters on Radium and Phototherapy. By Mihran Krikor Kassabian. J. B. Lippincott Company, Publishers, Philadelphia and London; 32 and 545 pages.

The author gives a very comprehensive compilation of the various forms of electrical energy and their use for medical purposes. The first portion of the work, but the shorter one, deals with magnetism and electricity in general, their measurements and definitions and their applications as static, galvanic, faradic, high frequency discharges. With a great number of illustrations he shows the different instruments and their use. The second, and by far the most important part of the book, is devoted to the X-Rays, the third part to Radium and Phototherapy.

Entirely different from the standard German work by Doctor Albers-Schoenberg, whose translation into the English language would be of greatest merit and very desirable, this handbook does not give the opinion of the author only, but a review of the opinion of very many other people and, unfortunately, a great number of theories which have been corrected by the rapid progress of the latest years. This is especially true about the application of the galvanic and faradic currents in chronic diseases. The use of the wall plate has been entirely abandoned or greatly limited in a great number of cases. In a more critical way K. deals with the application of the high frequency rays which have found such great friends in France, but far less in Germany and other countries.

The value of the X-Rays as a therapeutic agent, though thoroughly established in epithelioma, carcinoma and sarcoma, seems to me very doubtful in many cutaneous affections like psoriasis, eczema, lupus, keloid, tuberculosis, etc., in all of which the author has compiled in a very extensive manner from the medical journals scattered reports of over-optimistic observers which have not been verified by later experience. A textbook is not supposed to be a collection of all that has been written somewhere on the subject treated, but rather the fruit of a very careful selection and elimination. The beginner who uses his textbook for his information will gain the impression that almost every human ailment can be successfully treated by some electric means, only to be greatly disappointed when he goes to work.

The same must be said especially about the clinical application of the X-Rays to diseases and tumors of the soft tissues. With the instruments of to-day, the differentiation in densities, especially in the skull and trunk, is not far enough advanced (and perhaps never will be) to enable us to make diagnoses of myomata, fibromata, etc. The skill of the clinician and pathologist must be depended upon in those cases.

What the worker in the new field of Roentgenology feels very deeply, is the lack of proper knowledge as to what can be done by the new method and what are its limits. K.'s book, I am afraid, will not improve upon the proper limitation of the field, and if ever, here it becomes true that less would have been more. Even in the description of instruments it will be far more useful not to show illustrations of half a dozen tubes and interrupters but to have reliable authority as to which is the best of them for the time being. The lack of system and critics, and the aim to give within the scope of a textbook all the details of the various articles makes it very hard to select the good grains out of the vast amount of shells, and has caused a great number of repetitions and commonplaces like the following: "When a patient comes for treatment, it is necessary to ascertain the nature of the disease, before deciding upon the kind of treatment to be instituted" (page 54).

The worst feature of the whole book is the index. If you want to see the author's suggestions as to an examination of the knee joint, you of course will expect to find something under "knee," but you will be badly mistaken. You will have to look up three pages under the head "X-Rays," and with patience and perseverance you will find X-Rays as a diagnostic agent in diseases of the joints (pp. 282-285), or X-Rays as a diagnostic agent in fractures and dislocations (pp. 258-270), and especially when you are in a hurry it will be a great comfort to you that you might find something on the subject by reading over sixteen pages in your textbook.

We certainly appreciate the energy and industry of the author displayed in the collection of a vast amount of material, but we are strongly under the impression that he has stopped where he should have only begun.

The rapid development of Roentgenology within the last year, the introduction of the multiple anode, Wehnelt interrupter for instantaneous work, the perfection of the alternating transformers with synchron current rectifiers by Koch, and their improvement by Snook, the introduction of greatly improved mercury interrupters has entirely revolutionized the field, and if a new edition of the work should become necessary, the author will do well to do away with all the ballast he is carrying now and to take his course more straightforward towards the destination. The illustrations contained in the book, so far as they are reproductions of X-Ray plates, need only to be compared with those of the "Forschritte des Roentgenesens" and other German papers to show the absolute insufficiency of the so-called "half-tone" process, which has been used by the publisher of K's book. The plates may have been perfect, but the reproductions give but a very faint idea of the original and its merits.

COUNTY SOCIETIES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Stockton, Cal., April 30, 1909.

The regular monthly meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society met at the home of Dr. Peterson with the President, Dr. Hull, in the chair, and the following members present: Drs. Hull, Hoisholt, Langdon, Tower, H. N. Cross, Sander-son, Hopkins, Smyth, Fitzgerald, Peterson, Harry, Walker and E. A. Arthur.

The minutes of the last regular and call meeting of the Society were read and approved. The committee on ethics reported that their attention had been called to the fact that Dr. Blackmun accepted the position as examiner for the New York Life Insurance Co. without the company agreeing to the \$5.00 rate. The committee thereupon called upon Dr. Blackmun, explaining the position of the Society in the matter, the doctor refusing to resign as examiner, but instead exhibited a letter from the local agent who personally guaranteed \$5.00 for each examination and also promising that he would resign in favor of Dr. Fitzgerald if he, Dr. Fitzgerald, would take the examination at \$3.00. This being unsatisfactory to the committee, they moved that Dr. Blackmun be expelled from the Society, and that no member of this Society be allowed to counsel with the doctor under penalty of expulsion from the Society. Carried.

The committee on incorporation reported favorably. It was moved, seconded and carried that the action on the subject of incorporation be postponed until the next regular meeting of the Society and that the Secretary inform all members the object of the meeting and request their attendance. Dr. Arthur reported that he had secured the signature of most of the members of the Society to the resolution lately presented the Board of Supervisors and it

was again presented to the said board. Moved that a committee of five be appointed to confer with the Board of Supervisors and obscure the above resolution. Carried. The Chair appointed the following: Drs. Arthur, Hoisholt, Harry, Fitzgerald and Harbert.

A communication was read from Dr. Jones regarding the movement for the prevention of venereal diseases. It was moved that the communication be laid upon the table for further action. Carried.

Dr. Tower read a paper on Trichinosis, giving the history of four cases in detail, which was found to be one of the most interesting papers the Society has recently listened to. The doctor also exhibited microscopical slides showing the *Spirilla trichinosis*.

It was moved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to formulate a letter and also arrange, if possible, to appear before the various labor organizations regarding members of such organizations calling any physician who accepts practice for a fee less than that adopted by the San Joaquin County Medical Society. Carried. The Chair appointed the following: Drs. Walker, Cross and Peterson.

It was moved and seconded that the President and Secretary be authorized to consult with the merchants' association regarding the suggestion of an ordinance prohibiting the practice of itinerant physicians. Carried.

B. F. WALKER, Secretary.

SONOMA COUNTY.

The Sonoma County Medical Society met in Dr. Huffman's office, Healdsburg, May 7th, '09. The attendance was small but we had a good meeting, and elected Drs. Frederick Leix, Sonoma, and Marion B. McAulay, Petaluma, members of our Society. We have 51 members. Dr. J. Walter Seawell exhibited a specimen of carcinoma of sigmoid flexure, giving history of case; also related the birth of two children in his practice within a month of each other interuteroamputation of arm at elbow and armless child. Neither child lived.

Dr. W. J. Kerr related the case of tapeworm in stomach of a 19-year-old young lady that was vomited up, but the girl failed in health, vomiting so often—finally after about six weeks she died of exhaustion.

G. W. MALLORY, Secretary.

SONOMA COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Sonoma County Medical Society for June was held Friday, June 4th, at the County Hospital, and the following were present:

Dr. W. J. Kerr, President, presiding; Drs. G. W. Mallory, Secretary; C. H. Thompson, F. O. Pryor, E. M. Yates, J. W. Scamell, S. S. Bogle, J. W. Clark and P. A. Meneray.

Visitors: Drs. Ethan H. Smith, San Francisco, and E. E. Briggs, Watsonville.

Dr. S. S. Bogle showed a case, a man 45 years old, who had had an omental hernia. Dr. Bogle had removed about 100 cubic inches of the thickened omentum, and the patient was about well in one month afterwards. Now the patient says at time he feels a little pain about the pelvis, yet he works all the time. Dr. Bogle took us through the wards. Dr. Ethan H. Smith of San Francisco was introduced and exhibited a patient four years old, girl, double congenital dislocation of hips, also Radiographs, before and after operation, by the Hoyer method. The child had good use of its legs, the head is in the acetabula on both sides. Dr. Smith gave an excellent talk on the operation and also on the subject. The next meeting will be in Sebastopol, July 2, 1909.

G. W. MALLORY, Secretary.